



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to Robbing One Victim, Attempting to Rob Another in Separate Attacks in Northwest Washington - Shot One Victim in the Chest -

WASHINGTON - Ryan Collins, 23, pled guilty today to charges stemming from a robbery and an attempted robbery that took place within a one-hour period in December 2010 in Northwest Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Collins, of District Heights, Md., pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of robbery, assault with intent to commit robbery while armed, and carrying a pistol without a license. The Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary scheduled sentencing for July 20, 2011. Collins faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison.

According to a proffer of facts signed by the defendant, Collins and an accomplice approached the first victim at about 2:30 a.m. on December 4, 2010. The victim was walking to his car when he was accosted in the 4300 block of Jenifer Street NW, in the Friendship Heights area. Collins pointed a handgun at the victim's stomach and demanded money. The victim surrendered \$20 and a cellphone, and Collins and the accomplice fled with the property.

Just an hour later, and on a nearby street, the second victim was accosted while walking to his car in the 5400 block of 43d Street NW. Collins and the accomplice approached this victim, and Collins once again pointed a gun. Collins demanded the man's wallet, but the victim resisted and began to fight. Collins stepped back a few feet and shot the victim in the chest. Collins and the accomplice then fled without taking a wallet or any other property.

Collins pled guilty today to charges in each of those attacks. He has been in custody since January 31, 2011, when he turned himself in to the police after learning that law enforcement had a warrant for his arrest. During an interview with police, he admitted taking part in two additional robberies, which also took place in December 2010 in Northwest Washington.

In one attack, he approached a woman who was in front of a high-rise building in the 2700 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW and engaged her in conversation. His accomplice then approached the victim, pointed a handgun at her, and took her bag, which contained a laptop computer and other items.

In the other attack, Collins admitted participating in the armed robbery of another woman in the 4100 block of Harrison Street NW. He and his accomplice spotted this victim while she was walking down the street. They approached her, but she walked up onto a porch. Collins acted as the look-out while his accomplice took her purse at gunpoint.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Neil Jones, who investigated the case. He also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Lewis, who is prosecuting the case.

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